

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) Coated plant seed, **characterized** in that said seed comprises a seed coated with at least one fixing agent comprising at least one asparatic acid derivative selected from the group consisting of ethylenediamine disuccinic acid, 2,2'-iminodisuccinic acid, isomers thereof and salts thereof, with and at least one plant nutrient.
2. (Original) Coated plant seed according to claim 1, **characterized** in that the salt of said ethylenediamine disuccinic acid, 2,2'-iminodisuccinic acid, or isomers thereof is an alkali or alkaline earth metal salt.
3. (Original) Coated plant seed according to claim 1 or 2, **characterized** in that said coating comprises 0.01 – 5%, preferably 0.03 – 5%, more preferably 0.1 – 5% by weight of the fixing agent compound, relative to seed weight
4. (Original) Coated plant seed according to claim 1, **characterized** in that said coating comprises 0.1 – 2% by weight of a trace element, relative to seed weight.
5. (Original) Coated plant seed according to claim 1, **characterized** in that said coating comprises 0.1 – 10% by weight of a nutrient salt, relative to seed weight.
6. (Original) Coated plant seed according to claim 1, **characterized** in that said coating further comprises 0 – 2% by weight of a further agent having an effect on plant growth, such as a

pesticide, a growth regulator, a preservative, a stabilizer, a functionally active agent and a sugar, and further, 0.1 – 10% by weight of water, relative to seed weight.

7. (Original) Coated plant seed according to claim 1, **characterized** in that said seed is coated with an aqueous coating composition comprising 1 – 50%, preferably 5 – 50%, more preferably 5 – 30% by weight of the fixing agent, 0 – 15% by weight of a trace element, 0 – 70%, preferably 0 – 40% by weight of a nutrient salt, 0 – 15% by weight of a further agent having an effect on plant growth, and 30 – 90% by weight of water.

8. (Original) An aqueous coating composition for coating seeds, **characterized** in that said composition comprises at least one fixing agent comprising at least one asparatic acid derivative selected from the group consisting of ethylenediamine disuccinic acid, 2,2'-iminodisuccinic acid, isomers thereof and salts thereof, and at least one plant nutrient.

9. (Original) The aqueous coating composition according to claim 8, **characterized** in that said composition comprises 1 – 50%, preferably 5 – 50% by weight of the fixing agent, 0 – 15% by weight of a trace element, 0 – 70%, preferably 0 – 40% by weight of a nutrient salt, 0 – 15% by weight of a further agent having an effect on plant growth, and 30 – 90% by weight of water.

10. (Currently amended) Method for coating seeds according to ~~any of the preceeding claims 1–7~~claim 1, **characterized** in that seeds to be coated are subjected in an apparatus suitable for treating seeds, followed by the addition of

either

(a) an aqueous coating composition comprising at least one fixing agent compound and plant nutrient containing trace elements and/or nutrient salts, and optionally further agents having an effect on plant growth to form a coating on the surface of the seed,

or

(b) at least one aqueous fixing agent compound to form an fixing agent layer on the surface of the seed, followed by the addition of a plant nutrient in powder form containing trace elements and/or nutrient salts, and optionally further agents having an effect on plant growth, to form a coating on the surface of the seed,

or

(c) an aqueous coating composition comprising at least one fixing agent compound and plant nutrient to form an fixing agent layer on the surface of the seed, followed by the addition of plant nutrient in powder form containing trace elements and/or nutrient salts, and optionally further agents having an effect on plant growth, to form a coating on the surface of the seed.

11. (Original) The method according to claim 10, **characterized** in that the aqueous coating composition of steps a), b) and c) is the aqueous coating composition as defined in claim 8 or 9.